

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 22 to 27 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please add new Claims 28 to 31 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) An electronic camera that can connect to a computer, the electronic camera comprising:

a switch, which is turned on by a user or the computer;

a control unit, which controls the electronic camera; and

a power control unit, which starts supplying power from a battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit if the switch is turned on,

wherein if the switch is turned on by the computer, the electronic camera operates as a peripheral device for the computer,

wherein if the switch is turned on by the computer and the control unit then determines that a predetermined request is received from the computer, the control unit continues supplying power from the battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit,

wherein if the switch is turned on by the computer and the control unit then determines that the predetermined request is not received from the computer, the control unit stops supplying power from the battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit, and

wherein if the control unit determines that a power shut-off command is received from software on the computer which needs the electronic camera, the control unit stops supplying power from the battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit, the power shut-off command being sent from the software to the electronic camera when execution of the software is finished.

29. (New) The electronic camera according to Claim 28, wherein if the switch is turned on by the user, the electronic camera operates as a standalone device.

30. (New) A method for controlling an electronic camera that can connect to a computer, the electronic camera including (a) a switch that is turned on by a user or the computer, and (b) a control unit that controls the electronic camera, the method comprising steps of:

starting supplying power from a battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit if the switch is turned on;

if the switch is turned on by the computer, operating the electronic camera as a peripheral device for the computer;

if the switch is turned on by the computer and the control unit then determines that a predetermined request is received from the computer, continuing supplying power from the battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit;

if the switch is turned on by the computer and the control unit then

determines that the predetermined request is not received from the computer, stopping supplying power from the battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit; and

if the control unit determines that a power shut-off command is received from software on the computer which needs the electronic camera, stopping supplying power from the battery connected to the electronic camera to the control unit, the power shut-off command being sent from the software to the electronic camera when execution of the software is finished.

31. (New) The method according to Claim 30, further comprising the step of:

if the switch is turned on by the user, operating the electronic camera as a standalone device.